

REMARKS

Claims 4, 8-17 and 25-27 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 18-24 have been cancelled, and Claims 4, 25 and 26 have been amended, herewith. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner rejected Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Farnsworth et al. ('371). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants are canceling such claim herewith, without prejudice or disclaimer, in order for this case to expeditiously pass to issuance. Such claim may be further pursued in a continuation application.

Therefore, the rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5 and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Farnsworth et al. in view of Roth et al. and Smith. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants are canceling such claims herewith, without prejudice or disclaimer, in order for this case to expeditiously pass to issuance. Such claims may be further pursued in a continuation application.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The Examiner rejected Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Farnsworth et al., Roth et al. and Smith as applied to Claims 1-3, 5 and 18-23 above, and further in view of Leonhardt et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants are canceling such claims herewith, without prejudice or disclaimer, in order for this case to expeditiously pass to issuance. Such claims may be further pursued in a continuation application.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants graciously acknowledge the allowance of Claims 8-17 and 27.

The Examiner stated that Claims 4, 25, and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the claims have been rewritten accordingly to overcome this objection. Amended Claims 4, 25 and 26 are thus shown to be allowable.

V. Conclusion

As all pending claims are now allowed or allowable, it is respectfully urged that the subject application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE:

9/6/05

Respectfully submitted,



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